

REMARKS

General:

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application before this amendment. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 20 stand rejected. Claims 3-10 and 13-19 stand objected to. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to incorporate the features of previous claims 3 and 13, respectively. Claims 3 and 13 have consequently been canceled. The dependencies of claims 4-7, 14-16, and 19 have been updated to refer to claim 1 or claim 11, as appropriate, instead of claim 3 or claim 13.

Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 11 is explained below. The amendment to claim 20 merely corrects the dependency, and are supported by the previous text of the claim.

No new matter has been added by this amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 rejection:

Claim 20 stands rejected as allegedly indefinite as lacking antecedent basis for some features. Claim 20 should have been made dependent from claim 13 in a previous amendment. However, as a result of the present amendment affecting claims 11 and 13, the dependency of claim 20 from claim 11 is now correct, and proper antecedent basis for claim 20 is now present.

35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 were rejected as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,215,460 (Amberg et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,060,367 (Vandevoorde). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the features of previous claims 3 and 13, which were indicated as allowable over the prior art, and this rejection is believed not to apply to claims 1 and 11 as now presented. Claims 2 and 12 are dependent from claims 1 and 11 and, without prejudice to their individual merits, are believed now to be allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 11.

Allowable subject matter:

The Examiner's indication that previous claims 3-10 and 13-20 define allowable subject

matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 3-10 and 13-20 were objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim. Claims 3 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claims 1 and 11, and are believed to be allowable. Claims 4-10 and 14-20 are now dependent from allowable base claims 1 and 11. The objection is therefore believed no longer to apply.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and an early notice of allowance of claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 as now presented, are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any further minor concerns, he is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned or Henry Blanco White, reg. no. 47,350, telephone no. 215-988-3301.

Respectfully submitted,

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